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PATENT APPLICATION
IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
May 15, 2006

Applicants: Yutaka MIYAMOTO et al
For: BUTT WELDING APPARATUS AND BUTT WELDING METHOD
Serial No.: 10/523 579 Group: 1725
Confirmation No.: 1367
Filed: January 28, 2005 Examiner: Kerns
International Application No.: PCT/JP2004/007743
International Filing Date: May 28, 2004
Atty. Docket No.: Ace 12

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated February 27, 2006,
please amend the above-identified application as follows:
(Please see following pages.)

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being
deposited with the United States Postal Service with
sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope
addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 15, 2006.


Terryence F. Chapman